

Week Ending Friday, June 21, 2002

**Remarks During a Visit to the
Headquarters of the Association for
the Advancement of Mexican
Americans in Houston, Texas**

June 14, 2002

Let me say a couple of words. I know you're anxiously awaiting them. First, it's great to be back in Texas. I'm proud to be here with my friend the Governor and Congressman Green.

Before I talk about service, I want to say something about Karachi. We fight an enemy that are radical killers; that's what they are. You know, they claim they're religious people, and they blow up Muslims. They have no regard for individual life.

Our hearts go out to the—our citizens and those affected by the bombings that took place. Our prayers are with their families, are with the families of the people in Pakistan as well.

But these people, if they think they're going to intimidate the United States, they do not understand the United States of America. And we will continue to hunt them down and seek justice.

Secondly, as we make America more secure, we've got to make it a better place. Today is Flag Day. We can talk about patriotism, but a true patriot is one not only who salutes the flag, but a true patriot is one who serves the community in which they live.

So I want to thank AAMA for its great work in Houston and now, I understand, the valley. I want to thank the visionaries who put together this charter school. I want to thank AmeriCorps for being a part of the after-school program. I want to thank the mentors for understanding that out of evil done to America and out of the evil continuing to be done to others around the world can come some incredible good. And the good that can happen is, children can realize the great American Dream—start right here, learn to read, go to college, and can succeed

in America; that where there may be hopelessness and despair, love and compassion will overcome it.

And so I want to thank you all for letting me come by. Thank you for reading so well, and see you in college.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:30 p.m. at the Headquarters Summer Enrichment Camp. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Rick Perry of Texas. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

**Proclamation 7574—Father's Day,
2002**

June 14, 2002

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

Fathers play a unique and important role in the lives of their children. As mentor, protector, and provider, a father fundamentally influences the shape and direction of his or her child's character by giving love, care, discipline, and guidance.

As we observe Father's Day, our Nation honors fatherhood and urges fathers to commit themselves selflessly to the success and well-being of their children. And we reaffirm the importance of fathers in the lives of their children.

Raising a child requires significant time, effort, and sacrifice; and it is one of the most hopeful and fulfilling experiences a man can ever know. A father can derive great joy from seeing his child grow from infancy to adulthood. As a child matures into independence and self reliance, the value of a parent's hard work, love, and commitment comes to fruition.

Responsible fatherhood is important to a healthy and civil society. Numerous studies confirm that children whose fathers are

present and involved in their lives are more likely to develop into prosperous and healthy adults. Children learn by example; and they need their father's presence as examples of virtue in their daily lives. A child's sense of security can be greatly enhanced by seeing his parents in a loving and faithful marriage.

My Administration strongly supports initiatives to strengthen fatherhood, promote stable families, and increase the ease of adoptions. We must also continue to enlist the help of citizens and community groups who reach out to fatherless or neglected children through mentoring and other acts of compassion.

On this Father's Day, we acknowledge and honor the love of our own fathers. I encourage all fathers to commit themselves to the continuing love and care of their children and their families.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, in accordance with a joint resolution of the Congress approved April 24, 1972, as amended (36 U.S.C. 109), do hereby proclaim June 16, 2002, as Father's Day. I encourage all Americans to express love, admiration, and thanks to their fathers for their contributions to our lives and to society. I direct the appropriate officials of the Government to display the flag of the United States on all Government buildings on this day. I also call upon State and local governments and citizens to observe this day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this fourteenth day of June, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:47 a.m., June 19, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on June 20. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Remarks at a Reception for Governor Rick Perry of Texas in Houston

June 14, 2002

The President. Thank you for that warm welcome. It's another reason I'm glad to be home—[*laughter*]*—that, plus getting a little culture. [Laughter]* I can't tell you how great it is to see so many friends. I want to thank you for your prayers, for your friendship. I want to thank you for helping Laura and me serve our country.

I'm here today to talk about a man who—there's no doubt in my mind—is not only going to win in November but do a fine, fine job on behalf of the Texas people. We've shared a lot. We have both been Governors. And we both married above ourselves. [*Laughter*] I appreciate Anita Perry, the first lady of the State of Texas, and she's bringing a lot of class to the office.

I'm sorry Laura isn't here with me. She's in Crawford.

Audience member. We are, too.

The President. Well, I'm sure you are. I can understand that. [*Laughter*] You probably wish she was speaking. [*Laughter*]

It's hard to believe that a public school librarian who didn't particularly care about politics or politicians—[*laughter*]*—is now the First Lady of this great country, and she's doing a magnificent job.*

I'm really proud of her. Of course she, like my mother, is still telling me what to do. [*Laughter*] Marjorie, I'm of course listening. [*Laughter*] But we're doing great. We really are. Our family's strong. Our spirit is strong. Our love for our country has never been greater.

I want to thank all the elected officials who are here. I particularly want to say something about the next attorney general, Greg Abbott. Greg, I want to thank you for your—[*applause*]. I want to thank Henry Bonilla for being here and for his work on behalf of our party and the Victory Committee. I want to thank Justices Jefferson and Rodriguez, who are here with us tonight.

I know there's all kinds of candidates—Judge Carter, who's running in the 31st Congressional District this year. I know my